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Establishment of the Biosafety Committee for Transgenic Products

Report Categories:

Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies

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Report Highlights:

On June 15, 2010, Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, signed Presidential Regulation No. 39/2010 establishing the Biosafety Committee for Transgenic Products.

General Information:

On June 15, 2010, Indonesian President Yudhoyono issued Presidential Regulation No. 39/2010, implementing Article 29 Point (1) of Government Regulation No. 21/2005 on the Biosafety of Transgenic Products. This formally confirms the establishment of an intergovernmental Biosafety Committee for Transgenic Products, as well as the Committee's formal responsibilities, duties, functions and authorities. Furthermore, this regulation establishes the Biosafety Clearing House and Biosafety Committee Secretariat.

The Biosafety Committee consists of first and second rank officials from the related ministries. This includes the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, National Agency for Drug and Food Control, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Research and Technology, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Industry, and Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. In addition, representatives of leading university research centers and non governmental organizations are also members of the Committee. The Biosafety Committee is authorized to establish biosafety technical teams, which will carry out technical document assessments and conduct biosafety testing. To keep the Committee neutral without interference from the various ministries' political agenda, the President appointed Dr. Agus Pakpahan to head the Biosafety Committee for Transgenic Products. Dr. Pakpahan received his doctoral degree in Agricultural Economic from Michigan State University in 1988. Currently, he also serves as the Deputy State Minister for Agro-industry, Forestry, Pulp, Printing and Publication at the Ministry of State Owned.

The Biosafety Clearing House was recently moved from the Indonesian Science Institute to the Ministry of Environment. Also, the Committee Secretariat was recently moved from its former offices in the Ministry of Agriculture to a new location in the Ministry Environment. The new Presidential Regulation also states that the Minister of Environment will take the lead in appointing the Biosafety Committee members. These changes indicate that the Ministry of Environment will be the lead Ministry for all related matters on biotechnology. Moreover, the Ministry of Environment is the Indonesian National Focal Point for Cartagena Protocol.

The English version of this regulation is attached below.